

IN THE CLAIMS:

Although this reply does not amend the claims, the text of all pending claims, (including withdrawn claims) is set forth below for the convenience of the examiner.

1. (previously presented) A mediation negotiating method for mediating a negotiation between a requestor and responders using an electronic network, comprising:

forming requesting conditions including a plurality of conditional items in which priorities have been allocated to request contents in response to a mediating request of said requestor received via the network;

forming a negotiation field;

inputting said requesting conditions;

notifying, via the network, the requesting conditions to responders selected in accordance with said requesting conditions;

receiving, via the network, response information from the responders who participate in said negotiation field; and

notifying, via the network, said requestor and the other responders of the response information arranged in accordance with the priorities of said request contents, wherein

the formation of the requesting conditions comprises analyzing an abstract mediating request from the requestor to form said plurality of conditional items, and

said plurality of conditional items includes conditional items formed from an inquiry to the requester, conditional items automatically formed from requester information, and conditional items calculated from values of already established request conditional items.

2. (previously presented) A method according to claim 1, wherein in said request forming, priorities are allocated to request articles or the request contents such as service, price, term of delivery, and the like, thereby forming the requesting conditions with said priorities as said requesting conditions.

3. (previously presented) A mediation negotiating method for mediating a negotiation between a requestor and responders using an electronic network, comprising:

forming requesting conditions in which priorities have been allocated to request contents in response to a mediating request of said requestor received via the network;

forming a negotiation field;

inputting said requesting conditions;

notifying, via the network, the requesting conditions to responders selected in accordance with said requesting conditions;

receiving, via the network, response information from the responders who participate in said negotiation field; and

notifying, via the network, said requestor and the other responders of the received response information, and

wherein in said negotiation responding, when said requestor is notified of the response information inputted into said negotiation field, the response information is sorted in accordance with the priorities of said request contents is notified.

4. (previously presented) A method according to claim 1, wherein in said request forming, an abstract mediating request from the requestor is analyzed and one or a plurality of requesting conditions are formed.

5. (previously presented) A method according to claim 1, wherein in said negotiation requesting, the request contents including the priorities in the requesting conditions inputted into said negotiation field are changed and inputted again.

6. (previously presented) A method according to claim 1, wherein in said negotiation requesting, if there are a plurality of requesting conditions, the responder is selected under a condition that he corresponds to at least one of said plurality of requesting conditions, and the negotiation field between the responders and said requestor is formed.

7. (previously presented) A method according to claim 1, wherein in said negotiation requesting, a negotiation term is set into said negotiation field and the requesting conditions are inputted, and

in said negotiation responding, the end of the negotiation is discriminated and the negotiation field is closed.

8. (previously presented) A method according to claim 7, wherein in said negotiation responding, the negotiation field is closed by a negotiation decision instruction of said requestor or an expiration of the negotiation term.

9. (previously presented) A method according to claim 7, wherein in said negotiation responding the negotiation term is extended on the basis of an instruction from the requestor.

10. (previously presented) A method according to claim 7, wherein in said negotiation responding, when conditions which have been preset are satisfied upon expiration of the negotiation term, the negotiation term is automatically extended.

11. (original) A method according to claim 10, wherein when there is no response information or the number of response information does not reach a predetermined threshold value upon expiration of the negotiation term, the negotiation term is automatically extended.

12. (previously presented) A computer-readable recording medium in which a mediation negotiation program has been stored, wherein said mediation negotiation program comprises:

forming requesting conditions including a plurality of conditional items in which priorities have been allocated to request contents in response to a mediating request of a requestor;

forming a negotiation field;

inputting said requesting conditions;

notifying responders selected in correspondence with said requesting conditions of said requesting conditions;

receiving response information from the responders who participate in said negotiation field; and

notifying said requestor and the other responders of said response information arranged in accordance with the priorities of said request contents, wherein

the formation of the requesting conditions comprises analyzing an abstract mediating request from the requestor to form said plurality of conditional items, and

said plurality of conditional items includes conditional items formed from an inquiry to the requestor, conditional items automatically formed from requestor information, and conditional items calculated from values of already established request conditional items.

13. (previously presented) A mediation negotiating program which causes a computer to:

form requesting conditions including a plurality of conditional items in which priorities have been allocated to request contents in response to a mediating request of a requestor;

form a negotiation field;

input said requesting conditions;

notify responders selected in correspondence with said requesting conditions of said requesting conditions;

receive response information from the responders who participate in said negotiation field; and

notify said requester and the other responders of said response information arranged in accordance with the priorities of said request contents, wherein

the formation of the requesting conditions comprises analyzing an abstract mediating request from the requester to form said plurality of conditional items, and

said plurality of conditional items includes conditional items formed from an inquiry to the requester, conditional items automatically formed from requester information, and conditional items calculated from values of already established request conditional items.

14. (previously presented) A negotiation responding method, comprising:

receiving request information inputted into a negotiation field formed on an electronic network;

receiving, via the network, response information from responders arranged in accordance with the priorities of request contents inputted into said negotiation field;

preparing an initial value, a pitch value, and a lowest value with respect to a bid price;

inputting response information in which the initial value has been set to said bid price;

in the case where another response information with a cheaper bid price is recognized in said negotiation field, inputting response information in which the bid price has sequentially been corrected on a unit basis of said pitch value; and

in the case where a bid price of a competitor is lower than said lowest value, stopping the input of the response information and breaking off the negotiation.

15. (previously presented) A computer-readable recording medium in which a responder program has been stored, wherein said responder program comprises:

receiving request information inputted into a negotiation field formed on a network;

receiving response information from responders arranged in accordance with the priorities of request contents inputted into said negotiation field;

preparing an initial value, a pitch value, and a lowest value with respect to a bid price;

inputting response information in which the initial value has been set to the bid price;

in the case where another response information with a cheaper bid price is recognized in said negotiation field, inputting response information in which the bid price has sequentially been corrected on a unit basis of said pitch value; and

in the case where a bid price of a competitor is lower than said lowest value, stopping the input of the response information and breaking off the negotiation.

16. (previously presented) A responder program, which causes a computer to:

receive request information inputted into a negotiation field formed on a network;

receive response information from responders arranged in accordance with the priorities of request contents inputted into said negotiation field;

prepare an initial value, a pitch value, and a lowest value with respect to a bid price;

input response information in which the initial value has been set to the bid price;

in the case where another response information with a cheaper bid price is recognized in said negotiation field, input response information in which the bid price has sequentially been corrected on a unit basis of said pitch value; and

in the case where a bid price of a competitor is lower than said lowest value, stop the input of the response information and break off the negotiation.

17. (previously presented) A method of operating a data processing system, comprising:

receiving an abstract mediating request from a requester;

analyzing the abstract mediating request to determine a requesting condition, wherein the request condition can be determined from requester personal information, from a requester inquiry, and from a predetermined calculating expression;

communicating the requesting condition to a responder;

receiving response information from the responder; and

communicating the response information to the responder.